

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claim 1 will have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 3 and allowable claim 8. Claims 3 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. New claim 23 has been presented, substantially corresponding to allowable claim 12 rewritten into independent form, including all intervening claims. New claim 24 has been presented, substantially corresponding to allowable claim 18 rewritten into independent form, including all intervening claims. New claim 25 has been presented, substantially corresponding to allowable claim 22 rewritten into independent form, including all intervening claims. In view of the amendments, applicants respectfully request an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending, in due course.

Any amendments to the claims, or addition or cancellation of claims, which have been made in this amendment, and that have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

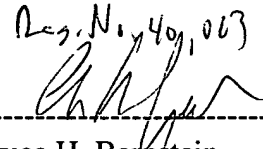
P21105.A11.DOC

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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